

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 L-02 SS-15 NSC-05 DRC-01 /054 W

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P 231151Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4598

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 5182

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, NL

SUBJ: US-GON CIVAIR TALKS--PRESS COMMENTARY

1. CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS RECEIVED FRONT PAGE TREATMENT IN MOST DUTCH DAILIES YESTERDAY EVENING AND THIS MORNING. TENOR OF STORIES WHICH ARE HIGHLY CRITICAL OF US STANCE IS BEST REPRESENTED BY STATEMENT IN INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD THAT AMERICANS ARE BEHAVING AS THOUGH AN AIRLINE AGREEMENT DID NOT EVEN EXIST.

2. NATION'S LARGEST DAILY, INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE DE TELEGRAAF, REPORTED THAT THE "FIERCENESS WITH WHICH THE AMERICANS WANT TO LAY DOWN THE LAW TO HOLLAND ABOUT ITS MOST IMPORTANT INTERCONTINENTAL AIR CONNECTION CAUSED INDIGNATION IN DUTCH GOVERNMENT CIRCLES. PAPER SAID THAT CONSULTATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE WITH MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION WESTERTERP ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF BREAKING OFF TALKS IMMEDIATELY SO THEY CAN BE RESUMED LATER ON AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL AND WITH MORE POLITICAL PRESSURE. IT QUOTED A STATEMENT BY FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL IN WHICH HE DESCRIBED US ATTITUDE IN REGARD TO KLM AS "HARD AND NOT VERY CONSTRUCTIVE". DE TELEGRAAF ALSO PICKED UP DUTCH DELEGATION'S LINE THAT US POSITION CANNOT FORM A BASIS FOR CONSULTATIONS. DUTCH DEL LEADER ZWANENBERG; HOWEVER, ALSO SAID TO HAVE REMARKED THAT "IF AMERICANS WANT TO CONTINUE THE TALKS WE SHALL ACCEPT THEIR UNCLASSIFIED

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WISH AND DO SO".

3. CATHOLIC LABOR AND LEFTIST-ORIENTED "DE VOLKSKRANT" SAID THAT MINISTER VAN DER STOEL IS "DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED" AND CONCERNED BY THE TOUGH ATTITUDE OF THE US DEL AND COMMENTED THAT IT IS EXTREMELY UNUSUAL FOR A MINISTER TO EXPRESS HIMSELF SO SHARPLY IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF NEGOTIATIONS. DE VOLKSKRANT CLAIMED THAT IF US OBTAINED ITS OBJECTIVE, SOMEWHAT LESS THAN 50 PERCENT OF PRESENT KLM, NORTH ATLANTIC PASSENGERS WOULD BE RETAINED BY THE AIRLINE AND REPORTED THAT DUTCH DEL REGARDED THIS LIMITATION AS SO DRASTIC THAT THE WORLD-FAMOUS ROLE OF SCHIPHOL AIRPORT AS "GATEWAY TO EUROPE" CAN BE COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT.

4. INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD SAID THAT IT WAS TO BE EXPECTED THAT THE TALKS WOULD BE TOUGH BUT TOOK A VERY DIFFERENT VIEW THAN OTHER LEADING DAILIES. IT SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE MORE EFFICIENT AND FINANCIALLY SOUNDER IF A GROUP OF EUROPEAN AIRLINES GOT TOGETHER AND COMBINED THEIR NORTH ATLANTIC FLIGHTS. ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD SUGGESTED THIS WAY THE AIRLINES WOULD NOT LOSE THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND WOULD THEN STRENGTHEN THEIR POSITION VERSUS THE US.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL AVIATION, PRESS COMMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 OCT 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974THEHA05182  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740302-0331  
**From:** THE HAGUE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741022/aaaaasba.tel  
**Line Count:** 83  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CollinP0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 MAR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 MAR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** US-GON CIVAIR TALKS--PRESS COMMENTARY  
**TAGS:** EAIR, NL, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005